

the Sheikh lives there now to help get his share, I suppose -  
The crew took a fancy too, to take more bread, instead of getting  
it at Rosoman, so we were to stay all day - After breakfast we  
all set off, the boatmen too, to join grand procession to the sea  
'the temple,' which is recent, as we say now-a-days, being of the  
time of the Ptolemies, about 200 years before Christ! It was market  
day & the streets were full. The shops in the bazaar busy, the square  
filled with people squatted, their wares in front, some vendible  
molasses came on the tray of the little sugar peddler! A money  
changer rattling his copper coin, you near finding & peep into a  
corner house, & see a horse turning the stones, grinding wheat -  
Outside an old man sits on straw mats, sifting the grain with a  
coarse sieve - As usual a crowd to follow us, no sailor in our  
hats brown & a turban of yellow shippers, with a in water etc -  
at times to drive them off - The street, & has only been cleared  
in a few feet - By the columns & a small wooden gate -  
columns being above the present level of the ground - There is  
the portico & the front wall of what seems to have been an open  
building, over which no new dome has been built - But the columns  
in their niches Egyptian & in some places a lower -  
capital, & some, & in some, the more on ancient -  
shape, the more, the more perfectly even & with some  
of the - had very hard, & one is very hard  
- amount of work on these buildings when every

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Near Rosoman, Jan. 11th. 1833

My dear Sue,  
The day we arrived at Thebes, Jan. 11th, was  
really the only disagreeable day we have had for weather. It  
was very dusty, for there was a tempest of wind & many clouds,  
an unusual sight; my eyes had been a little uneasy from the glare  
& dust of the ride to Souda, & then the dust in the air, which  
affected us even while in the middle of the river from the wind,  
& as I was not entirely well, I did not go to Karnak when the  
rest all took donkeys in the aft. I had the pleasure of reading  
all my letters, & finishing my writing - The Consul was to be  
visited to get letters from him to the Sheikh of the Cataract, but  
word was brought he was dining on an English boat; so Charles  
put it off until to-morrow; but just after dinner his son came down  
to call - He looked very like what we should call a strawberry at  
home; had on a red fez, large full drawers of a fiasco, the purple  
silk cloth so fashionable, & a grey sack coat - This combination  
of Eastern & Western costume is anything but effective! He was  
polite & pleasant, told us something about Lady Duff Gordon, &  
was served by Sappucija with coffee. He was asked to write a letter  
for us to the Sheikh, & clasped his hands & said a waiter, who was  
sent out to his servant on the bank to bring in his materials. The  
inkstand was only a large glass one, the pen a reed cut in pen shape  
which comes, he says, from Syria - He took a large sheet of paper,

paper, & wrote from right to left, held up the paper in his hand.

The Arabic writing is wonderfully condensed & takes very little room - He wrote for the Supplicans obliqua three names in Arabic. The next morn. before breakfast I went ashore with Dr. Joubert to see some of the ruins of Luxor, which lie close to the bank. A small boy presented himself as guide, "Mohammed Ali," the gray donkey boy of the day before - He led us up over heaps of dirt to the front of a pyramid more than half buried, an immense statue in front, only the head sticking out. - Then round again, past three shattered houses & heaps of rubbish (meaning old pottery & dust & small fragments of all sorts of things contained, dust predominating) & a gate & through a dirty yard into a sort of hole, passing through which we found ourselves in the chamber of an old temple that had been quite cleared out within - But the spot is so much injured by the charity dirt about & climbing down into these places, that I could not get any sense of grandeur - It must have been so different when one approached on a level & they rose up so grandly! - I think too the effect must be finer when the sand of the desert covers them up, & not this dirty refuse of unburned brick, mud, straw, pottery &c. in the middle of an Arab village. - One would like to see them grandly alone - Looking up to the lofty ceiling, one could see rafters of palm trunks, showing a house was built in the top! The columns too. The lotus stalks & buds the columns forming smaller at the base, & a very curious effect. We clambered through & saw one or two other halls, some

columns very different, the capitals only just above the ceiling, & one open square where were the tops of two Roman columns of red granite, polished, the capitals white, & fragments of brilliant colours painted on the wall. - But I must confess that for me the time to see temples is not before breakfast, & that is rather overlanded Luxor for me - He sailed at once, & only had the morn. for, for some inexplicable reason, that we could not understand we stopped about lunch at a town where were some famous sugar factories - They pointed out some - some went to see them. - But my eyes felt sunlight too much & returned out until about sundown, when I saw the crowds lying & squatting in the street, the loads of sugar cane arriving on two pack's steamers, the donkeys & men carrying it up, the usual noise & bustle, & farther up quite a nice house with a wonderful garden for these regions, & a priest trees & grape vines & rose-bushes! Some of our party had some rose-buds given them - The next morn. we sailed for Gené & got there about 10 1/2 in the Ev. - But it was one of our first wet days. - To be sure there were some clouds & even a few drops of rain, but we tracked part of the time & got pleasant walks, & the mountains were beautiful, & the green rich at times, & many crops growing - Koma (room-corn,) Lupins, horse beans, young wheat, sugar-cane. And even some wild flowers! for Egypt is not the land of flowers. - At Gené we must see the premises of the town for he makes the arrangements for crossing the Cataract, & one of

remain deep & steep, then the mud - there are a few  
the women standing singly at us - about 2 years, should think,  
in a little straight capote, the peaked hood drawn over her head,  
& little red slippers with turned up pointed toes & ankle ties! -  
We passed the granite of Sileilis where the river narrows, in the  
night, blew up against the bank under the palms, so could  
see by the star light, towards noon? I wait for the "indian", &  
see if again by the valley, crossed, then only a little deep  
of green on each side, the stone changed to darker colors, the  
Hills of the Libyan & Arabian Desert came down close upon  
us, on the Libyan side the yellow sand had rippled through  
some valleys, contracting curiously with the grey river sand  
at the brink - The palms were stately, graceful & beautiful -  
is over - The current ran fast, the wind blew strong, &  
mounding the sand points to run up to Assouan has  
careful work - We were here before 12, & before we could  
land a motley group were in the shore to sell ostrich feathers  
& ostrich eggs, Nubian rings & bracelets, spears & daggers, cow  
bells & baskets - And new, queer figures, men from Soudan,  
no covering on their woolly heads - dingy white robes - We  
had a walk this aft. & a beautiful <sup>view</sup> of Elephantine island,  
opposite, & up & down the river. Then back thro' the bazaar where  
red coffee cups tempted us, & we saw plenty of little girls with  
dove-rings, women with blue under lips, tattooed also blue on the  
arms, & some, etc. so ugly! -

past is com... going back, what was  
the idea, moment? or historical record? I mean  
I am very much struck with the faces of the gods &  
goddesses, the kings & queens - They are really beautiful,  
very much more so than I had expected; & refined,  
intellectual face that surprises me - Quite a higher type,  
as it seems to me, than the Greeks - That has more the  
flesh & blood beauty in their faces - And these have a pious  
that is god-like - But I am afraid Charles must've  
shocked at our innocent way of looking at Scripture  
& hieroglyphics; many devices are so strange, or course  
generally quite incomprehensible. And droll comparisons  
will suggest themselves. Mr. Rowland call the combined  
crown of Upper & Lower Egypt, a champagne bottle in a  
sitz bath, "it is so perfect one can't but adopt it!" -  
He had dinner when we came back, & read one of  
Mr. Seecher's sermons that Mrs. Rowland had, a very  
good one - Then the gentlemen went to call on the  
governor - He gave them letters to the Gov. of Assouan &  
the Sheikh of the Cataract - And they were much amused  
at his audience & way of hearing petitions. We had two  
Egyptian scribes, whom Charles said were perfect types of  
old Egyptians - There were 4 English dahabicks also  
at one, & Dr. Gray is getting up quite a little practice. An



English gentlemen, hearing he was "at" sent to see him, & the  
raises of all these men have needed some prescriptions. One  
thing is that Ramadan comes very severe on those who  
keep it. They neither eat, smoke or drink from before  
sunrise until after sunset, & often a hard day's work. And  
as they are great smokers, in the deprivation! Many  
of the sailors do not keep it, but the natives generally do.  
Sunday in the Howlands came in & we had some sea-  
and music - We got up quite a choir -

We were off by 7 o'clock Monday morn'g. - After we stop  
at any place we generally start with an additional passenger  
keeper for a few days, an unhappy sheep in our little boat  
behind; & it is funny when our boat comes near the How-  
lands & see the solitary passer, they bleat to each other  
their disapprobation of travelling by water - This time we  
have two, & so they are much happier - We made a very  
fine run yesterday, 70 miles in 24 hours, & the scenery was  
unusually varied - The mountains were broken, & more var-  
ied in their distance from the river, so that there was  
light & shadow, <sup>strongly marked,</sup> especially as there were clouds. Indeed we  
have seen more clouds than "no rain in Egypt" would lead us  
to expect - Sunday it was overcast all day, we should have  
said at home, a bad N.E. storm threatening - And yesterday  
we had little rain, & thunder & lightning. It has been colder  
than last few days, though we are going south, & rain is

especially - Still the air is very soft, & the sun is hot. But  
one hears more water than they did a week ago -  
In the aft. we stopped before a large building where  
was a steam engine, & a range of quite nice houses, & a long  
village street - Sapieaga wanted chival. We all jumped  
ashore for a walk. He found the building was a  
steam pump, a real canal of water running behind,  
& evidently a large quantity of land under cultivation -  
Sugarcane especially, & also just going in, some  
just out - Some fine bulls & cows, the beautiful, native  
breed which has a touch of Alderney apparently, & buffalo  
too, the ugliest animal I think I ever saw so awkwardly  
by shaped, thin long hair, & awkwardly stunted set of  
with outstretched head - Very different from the Camels  
which are better looking than I expected. Their long  
neck is certainly graceful, & the eye soft & patient.  
And they have a curiously inquisitive ray of blood, turn-  
ing the head & looking at you steadily, first with one eye  
then the other - There is great difference in them, some  
so shabby & forlorn looking, others really stately. When  
they are cross I certainly never saw anything more  
vicious than the open mouth showing the teeth, & this  
frown is horrid! At the end of the village street was a  
kiln, evidently for baking the very coarse earthen ware  
pot they use so much in building walls, & red brick ware.